

I am writing this in response to the NCVEC's petition to remove Exam element 1 completely from Amateur radio testing.

I currently hold an Amateur Extra class license with the callsign of K9DI. I am also an accredited Volunteer Examiner with the ARRL-VEC.

Granted the international treaty requiring Morse Code proficiency for license holders on frequencies below 30MHz has been altered and the fact that numerous administrations have removed the Morse testing requirement from their licensing requirement does not mean that the United States needs follow suit.

I can go along with the removal of Element 1 for Technician class license holders (without Morse code endorsement) and granting them the HF privileges commensurate with the current Novice/Technician (with Morse code endorsement) license holders on the 80, 40, 15, and 10 meter frequency bands. However, I cannot go along with removing the requirement of passing exam element 1 for those seeking a General or Amateur Extra class license. Morse Code is not a "filter" or "Gate-keeper" for this hobby, but it does teach those that pass element 1 the self-discipline needed to learn a new skill. I also strongly feel that the band plans not be changed from their current configuration.

The notion that administering examination element 1 is an "undue burden" on Volunteer Examiner Teams is simply not true.

Sincerely and Respectfully Yours

Wayne M. Scace ARS K9DI